

Refuse to be a Victim

It was 'only' a 4 day class, but it changed my life. It changed the way I think about safety. It changed the way I see myself. It changed the way I think about being pro-active in my own self defense. Here's what happened.

I attended a 4 day defensive (DEFENSIVE) handgun class at the premiere educational facility, Front Sight. Located in Pahrump, Nevada, it was a trek to get there and back from where I live. It took 2 full days of driving each way, approximately 2400 miles. I determined that with 4 days driving (round trip), and a 4 day class, I could justify 8 days to see if I could 'walk the walk and not just talk the talk.' It turned out to be time well spent.

The first day of class all participants must be on the grounds by 6:30 a.m. to register and have their weapons checked. Class begins at 8:00 a.m. The very first day I learned what dry practice is and how to do it safely. I learned the four safety rules that every gun owner must, that's MUST, commit to memory:

1. Treat all guns as if they are loaded.
2. Never let the gun muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
4. Be sure of what your target is and what is in line with it.

I learned the moral and ethical decisions associated with the use of deadly force. I became aware of the criminal and civil problems which follow a gunfight. I learned about mental awareness and the combat mindset. I learned the proper way to hold, carry, and fire a weapon, and practiced that at 3, 5, 7, 10, and 15 yards.

That was just the FIRST day.

There is not time here to review everything that was taught over the other 3 days. Believe me when I say, though, it changed everything I thought I knew.

It gave me a new perspective on perseverance... "Stay in the fight." If you're fighting to save your life, don't quit. Don't allow yourself to be tired, to be in pain, to be scared, to be anything but focused on staying alive. Stay in the fight.

Having been a victim of a violent crime I know what it feels like to have nothing but your wits to use to save your life. After this course I now know steps to take to PREVENT becoming a victim, steps to take during victimization, and what to do after you have neutralized the threat.

I finished the course feeling confident, competent, and safe, with a determination to continue my education in this endeavor. After all, I learned that in a fight, you are only half as good as you were in your last training. And that says it all: if you carry a weapon, learn to use it safely and never stop training in that use. Your life will depend on it. To put it simply, if you are not willing to participate in on-going training, do not carry a weapon. Without training you are more at risk, and those around you are more at risk, than if you had no weapon at all.

As I say in my book, BORDERLINE, the world can be a dangerous place. If you believe that you are not strong enough, brave enough, fit enough, determined enough to save your own life, and possibly the lives of your family, then ask yourself this: “Would the world be better off if I am killed by some predator, or would the world be better off without the predator?” My answer to that is this. Be responsible. Be safe. Refuse to be a victim.